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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/731,390 Confirmation No. 4528
Applicant : Jeffrey D. Flammer
Filed : 12/08/03
TC/A.U. : 2841
Examiner : PATEL ISHWARBHAI B
Docket No. : P03951
Customer No. : 28548

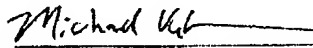
Interview Summary

Applicant's undersigned attorney would like to thank the Examiner for his time relating to the above-referenced matter.

The Examiner and Applicant's undersigned attorney discussed the following during a telephonic interview on March 9, 2007:

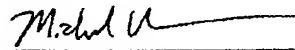
1. The above-reference case was recently assigned to Examiner Patel because the prior-assigned Examiner (Nguyen, Hung Thanh) is no longer with the USPTO.
2. Applicant's undersigned attorney stated that the current claim set was in condition for allowance. Examiner Patel and applicant's undersigned attorney discussed the § 102 rejection based on the Stopperan reference (U.S. 5,428,190) and how the Stopperan reference was not prior art as applied to applicant's claims. The Stopperan reference does not provide "at least one first structural weakness" that facilitates "breaking said at least one rigid layer at such at least one first selected location into at least two rigid pieces to provide at least one first flexible connection formed by said at least one first flexible layer between such rigid pieces". As pointed out during the interview, Stopperan clearly does not disclose applicant's invention as claimed.
3. In light of the switching of Examiners mid-prosecution, which diminishes the ability of applicant to get a full and fair examination, applicant's undersigned attorney requested that the Examiner remove the finality of the current Office Action and issue a new Non-Final Office Action. The Examiner responded by stating that if applicant submitted a response to the pending Office Action, that the Examiner would send a Non-Final Office Action (or a Notice of Allowance). Applicant's undersigned attorney again hereby requests that the finality of the Office Action be withdrawn immediately so that applicant receives a full and fair examination without overburdening the applicant, the USPTO, and the public with unnecessary financial costs and time costs.

Dated: 3-13-07


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Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on March 13, 2007.


Michael D. Volk Jr. (59,338)